

to strengthen the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. Moreover, we must redouble our efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

"Never Again" also means that we must combat hate and genocide wherever it exists. We must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. We must demand that our government hold those who carry out acts of needless brutality accountable and that it take action to prevent unwarranted human misery.

We recently marked the ten year anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, a horrific period in recent history. The world, including the United States, allowed for the brutal murder of 800,000 Tutsis in just 100 days of barbaric killings. President Clinton has cited the Rwandan genocide as one of his worst regrets.

In my Congressional district last weekend, the Cambodian Association of Illinois held a groundbreaking ceremony for the first Killing Fields Memorial Museum in the United States.

While we must honor those who were lost during the Holocaust and other past genocides by carrying on and living honorable and productive lives, the most important thing we can do to honor lives lost in the past is to refuse to repeat the same mistakes today that allowed for those atrocities to occur in the past.

Today, as we mark the Holocaust and honor the lives that were lost in the world's worst murder case, and, as we reflect on other past genocides, history appears, shamefully, to be repeating itself.

Today, in the Sudan, civilians are being systematically murdered, raped and brutalized by the government and other forces. We will likely witness the loss of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives in the coming weeks if the world stands idly by and does nothing to intervene.

Some in this body may feel some comfort in pointing to the fact that a hearing has been held or that they were willing to sign a letter or cosponsor a non-binding resolution expressing concern. Those are important steps to take to put the Congress on record, but unfortunately, they will not save lives. The situation in Sudan is a human rights emergency, one that demands immediate action, not just words from the United States and the international community. "Never Again" means making tough decisions to preserve human life.

While President Bush has acknowledged the situation in Sudan and has expressed concern, he has not taken action to address it. Phone calls and press statements do not constitute action. Today, I call on President Bush in the name of human dignity and compassion to honor those who were lost in years past while the world watched in silence, to exert true leadership and take action to stop the killing in the Sudan.

Each one of us has a responsibility to condemn the senseless killing that is taking place and to demand that our great nation lead the world in bringing the bloodshed to an end.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the millions of Jews who per-

ished in the Holocaust and extend my support to today's annual Days of Remembrance ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

The Days of Remembrance ceremony, along with the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, were established by Congress to permanently honor these victims. The lasting legacy of the museum and today's annual ceremony is not only to remember those who perished, but also to educate the world about human rights.

The 2004 Days of Remembrance asks us to pay tribute to the memory of the Jews of Hungary, who were deported 60 years ago in the final stages of World War II, and to honor those courageous individuals as well as the few organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them.

When I served in the Connecticut Senate as Senate President Pro Tempore, I had the great honor of presiding over the Days of Remembrance for 8 years. These ceremonies were incredibly moving. They inspired all in attendance to reflect on how such tremendous horror could happen in a civilized world. Every memorial candle lit by survivors and their family members was a testament that the eternal flame of life may flicker and dim, but it can never be extinguished.

One family in particular that understands this painful moment in history all too well is that of my colleague from Connecticut Senator JOE LIEBERMAN. Senator LIEBERMAN's wife Hadassah, is the daughter of Auschwitz death camp survivors. Although her father, Rabbi Samuel Freilich, has died, he bravely confronted his memories of Auschwitz by writing the book, *The Coldest Winter*.

Hadassah Lieberman was part of the U.S. delegation who attended the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I can't possibly begin to know what that trip must have meant to her. Yet, I do know that her courage to travel to this place of horrible evil, and the courage of every survivor and their families, is truly remarkable.

This year's Days of Remembrance theme is "For Justice and Humanity." Sadly, thousands around the world have not found justice from the crimes against humanity that they have endured.

A United Nations Commission on Human Rights statement issued yesterday indicates that human rights violations around the world are far from eliminated. The Commission agreed to assist countries that have recently experienced violence or are still combating insurgencies, such as Afghanistan, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Haiti, Burundi, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Liberia, Somalia and Sierra Leone.

Today's ceremony is a critical reminder that the fight against repression and violence is a difficult battle. Yet, it also reminds us that while the capacity to hate does exist in this world, an equally potent capacity for hope, for courage and for justice also exists.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the millions who lost their lives during the Hol-

ocaust as we observe Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

Yom Hashoah commemorates the April and May 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, 750 Jewish resistance fighters battled heavily armed German troops and police attempting to deport the surviving ghetto inhabitants to concentration camps. In an appeal to the world community to end the atrocities of the Holocaust, the fighters wrote, "A battle is being waged for your freedom as well as ours. For you and our human, civic, and national honor and dignity." Unfortunately, their call went largely unanswered. While the fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, the German firepower was too much. In the end, more than 56,000 Jews were captured, 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to concentration camps.

Between the years of 1941 and 1945, more than 12 million innocent civilians were murdered in the Holocaust, including 6 million Jews. These people were singled out not because of any wrongdoing, but rather because of their families' religion or where they were born.

Nearly 60 years after the end of this attempt to exterminate an entire religion, anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia continue to plague humanity. People are discriminated against and even targeted for violence simply because of where they were born or who their ancestors are. Every day, this occurs not only in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, but also here in America. Now more than ever, we all must work to understand those of different cultures, races, and religions. Mutual respect for differences will lead to the end of hostilities, and only then will the opportunity for world peace exist.

As philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I encourage my constituents to take this opportunity to visit the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, speak to a Holocaust survivor, or read a book by Eli Wiesel. I solemnly remember and honor all of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and I will do all in my power to ensure that similar atrocities never occur again.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of this Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, to remember both the best and the worst of humanity. Six million Jews and millions of others were rounded up, tortured, and murdered, by the Nazis 6 decades ago. The martyrs of these indescribably vicious and inhumane deeds will never be forgotten, neither their deaths nor the principles for which they stood. We remember those who were too weak to defend themselves, who were brutally slaughtered in death camps. We remember those like Anne Frank who battled to preserve their humanity in their own unique way. We remember those who fought back, like the brave men and women who rose up against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto 60 years ago.

Yet, nearly 6 decades after the Holocaust concluded, Anti-Semitism still exists as the scourge of the world. The Anti-Defamation League has found that in 2003 more than 1500 Anti-Semitic incidents occurred in the United States alone. Holocaust museums were the victims of arson and community centers defaced with swastikas. Tombs of Jews around the world, from Argentina to France, have been damaged and disgraced. For years we have spoken about this unacceptable situation, but we must reinforce our words with actions. As George Washington wrote in a letter to the Jewish Community of Newport, Rhode Island 204 years ago, the Government of the United States must always give "to bigotry no sanction."

As it did 60 years ago, the best of humanity must not stand silent but respond. Too small is our world to allow discrimination, bigotry and intolerance to thrive in any corner of it, let alone in the United States of America. Let this day of memorial strengthen our resolve to ensure that tolerance and coexistence will never be defeated by those who wish us harm.

IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the international community in reflecting

on the appalling events of the Holocaust and honoring the victims of this horrific tragedy by observing Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day in 1943, the brave Jewish men and women of the Warsaw ghetto revolted against their Nazi captors in what was, unfortunately, a doomed battle. Yet their courage in the face of incredible odds showed the world the strength of the human spirit against oppression, prejudice, and racism.

The sheer magnitude of the destruction and loss of life during the Holocaust is beyond comprehension. Over 12 million people lost their lives—more than 6 million of which were Jewish. In some cases, entire Jewish families and communities were wiped out.

Unfortunately, the struggle against anti-Semitism continues today, as recent reports indicate an increase in violence against the Jewish community around the world. Remembrance Day serves as a reminder that we must never forget the appalling tragedy of the Holocaust—and that the struggle against prejudice has not yet ended.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to fighting intolerance, racism and apathy so that future generations do not experience the suffering, terror and ultimate death endured by the victims of the Holocaust. We must strive to understand these horrific events and work together as an international community to never again remain silent and indifferent in the face of others' oppression.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, today, we mourn for the 6 million whose innocent lives were taken simply because they were Jews. Today, we honor the survivors of the Holocaust whose deep wounds will never heal. And today, we recognize the families of the fallen, whose lives were forever marred by irreparable loss and pain.

As we join together to pay tribute to those whose lives were tragically cut short, it is our moral obligation and duty to confer the lessons of the Holocaust l'dor v'dor—from one generation to the next. We must use Holocaust education as a shield, guarding future societies from incitement, ignorance and hate. Now, more than ever, as anti-Semitism increase both in Europe and throughout the globe, we must remember the horrors of the past to ensure that they may never happen again.

It is in this spirit that I join my colleagues in Congress in honoring the 6 million whose lives have been lost, but whose memories will forever live on.